Annual Alberta Regional Labour Market Review

Athabasca-Grande Prairie
Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake
Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House
Edmonton • Red Deer • Calgary
Camrose-Drumheller
Lethbridge-Medicine Hat

Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry

Highlights

I. Alberta: Overview

- Alberta had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 3.4%.
- Alberta experienced the highest participation rate, 73.4% among all provinces.
- Approximately 69% of Alberta's labour force lived in the Edmonton and Calgary regions.

II. Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake Economic Region

- The employment rate increased by 0.5 percentage points, from 71.4% in 2005 to 71.9% in 2006.
- Ongoing oil sands projects aided employment growth in the Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake Region.
- The industry with the highest year-over-year increase in employment was Mining, Oil and Gas.

III. Athabasca-Grande Prairie Economic Region

- In 2006, employment increased by 3.1%, an addition of 3,900 people.
- Increased drilling activities in the Athabasca-Grande Prairie Peace River Region resulted in employment growth.
- The industry with the highest year-over-year increase in employment was Professional, Scientific and Technical Services.

IV. Edmonton Economic Region

- The unemployment rate decreased by 0.7 percentage points, from 4.5% in 2005 to 3.8% in 2006.
- The region as a major supply centre benefited from major projects in the Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake Region.
- The industry with the highest year-over-year increase in employment was Public Administration.

V. Red Deer Economic Region

- The number of employed people in the Red Deer Region increased by 4.3%, from 93,600 in 2005 to 97,600 in 2006.
- There were several construction projects, which supplied employment to the region.
- The industry with the highest year-over-year increase in employment was Public Administration.

VI. Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House Economic Region

- The Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House Region had the highest participation rate and employment rate in the province, at 77.1% and 75.2% respectively.
- Various construction projects, as well as growth in the tourism industry contributed to the region's economy.
- The industry with the highest year-over-year increase in employment was Professional, Scientific and Technical Services.

VII. Calgary Economic Region

- In 2006, the region had the largest year-over-year increase in the number of employed people at 8.2%.
- A booming construction industry helped create employment, with strong demand in the housing and condo market.
- The industry with the highest year-over-year increase in employment was Forest, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas.

VIII. Camrose-Drumheller Economic Region

- The Camrose-Drumheller Region had the lowest unemployment rate in the province at 2.8%.
- High construction activity and oil projects in the region contributed to increasing employment.
- The industries with the highest year-over-year increase in employment were Educational Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance.

IX. Lethbridge-Medicine Hat Economic Region

- In 2006, the region had the second lowest unemployment rate in the province, after the Camrose-Drumheller Region at 3.0%.
- The re-opening of the United States border to Canadian cattle, as well as the booming Utilities and Construction industries, supplied employment for the region.
- The industry with the highest year-over-year increase in employment was Transportation and Warehousing.

I. Alberta: Overview

In 2006, Alberta had the highest participation rate *(see glossary of definitions)* in Canada at 73.4%, 6.2 percentage points higher than the national average. Alberta also had the highest employment rate at 70.8% and the lowest unemployment rate at 3.4%.

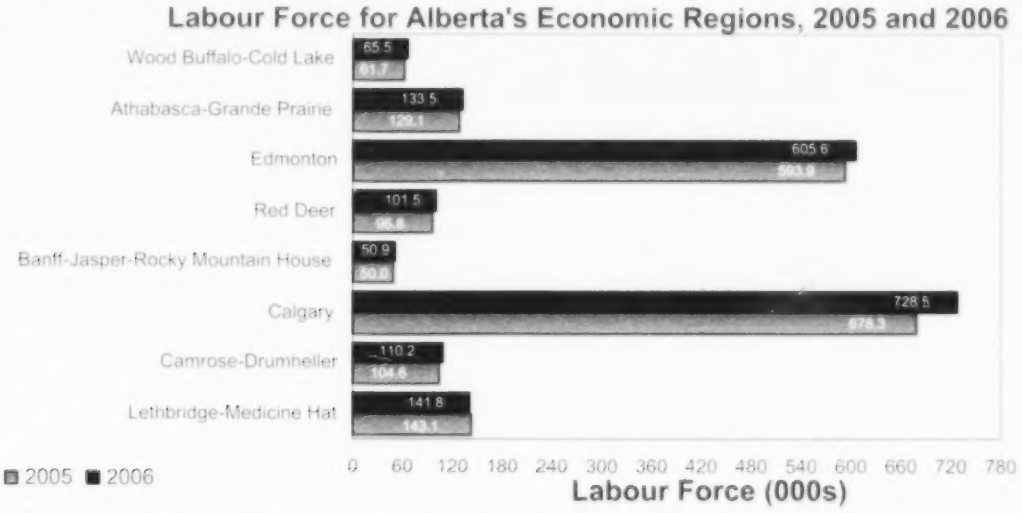
Table 1

Labour Force Statistics, Canada and Provinces, 2006			
	Participation Rate (%)	Employment Rate (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)
Canada	**67.2**	**63.0**	**6.3**
Newfoundland and Labrador	59.2	50.4	14.8
Prince Edward Island	68.7	61.1	11.0
Nova Scotia	62.9	57.9	7.9
New Brunswick	63.7	58.1	8.8
Quebec	65.5	60.2	8.0
Ontario	67.7	63.5	6.3
Manitoba	68.8	65.8	4.3
Saskatchewan	69.1	65.9	4.7
Alberta	**73.4**	**70.8**	**3.4**
British Columbia	65.7	62.5	4.8

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

Alberta's labour force grew by 4.3% or 80,000 people between 2005 and 2006. The labour force in the Calgary Region had the largest growth rate in 2006, increasing by 7.4% or 50,200 people. In 2006, Lethbridge-Medicine Hat was the only region to experience a decline in the labour force, a drop of 0.9% or 1,300 people. During this period, 68.9% of Alberta's labour force lived in the Edmonton and Calgary regions. Chart 1a shows the change in labour force for Alberta's eight economic regions in 2005 and 2006.

Chart 1a

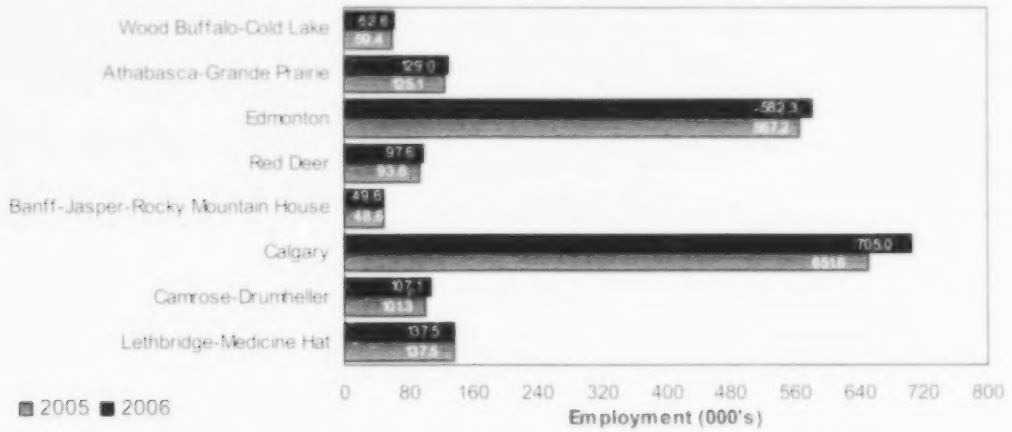


Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

In 2006, the number of people employed in Alberta was 1,870,700, an increase of 86,300 or 4.8% from the 2005 level. All of Alberta's economic regions experienced a growth in employment in 2006, with the exception of the Lethbridge-Medicine Hat Region. The Calgary Region had the largest employment growth rate in Alberta at 8.2%. Chart 1b displays the employment figures for Alberta's eight economic regions for 2005 and 2006.

Chart 1b

Employment for Alberta's Economic Regions, 2005 and 2006

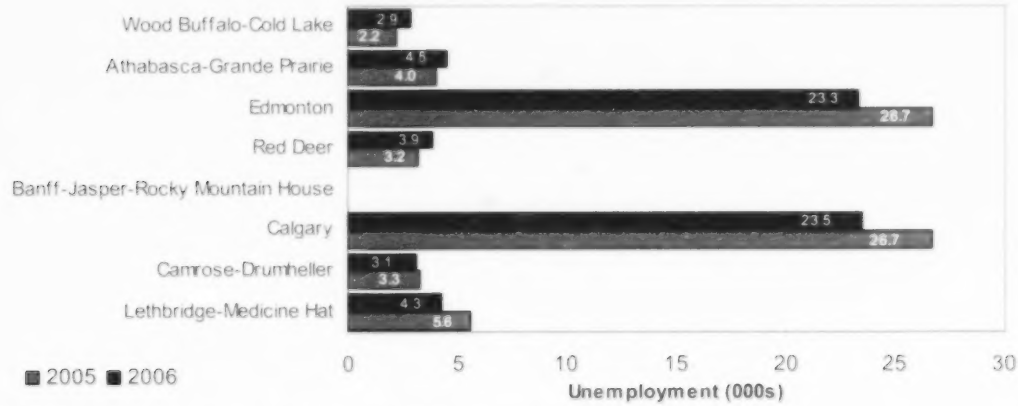


Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

The number of unemployed people in Alberta declined by 8.6%, from 73,100 in 2005 to 66,800 in 2006. The 2006 unemployment statistics for the Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House Region were not available, due to the Statistics Canada suppression rule.* In 2006, the Edmonton Region experienced the largest decrease in unemployed people, a reduction of 3,400 people to 23,300. Chart 1c displays the number of unemployed people for Alberta's eight economic regions for 2005 and 2006.

Chart 1c

Unemployment for Alberta's Economic Regions, 2005 and 2006



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* **Note:** Statistics Canada suppresses figures less than 1,500.

I. Alberta: Overview

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Table 1

Labour Force Statistics, Canada and Provinces, 2006			
	Participation Rate (%)	Employment Rate (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)
Canada	67.2	63.0	6.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	59.2	50.4	14.8
Prince Edward Island	68.7	61.1	11.0
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Chart 1a

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

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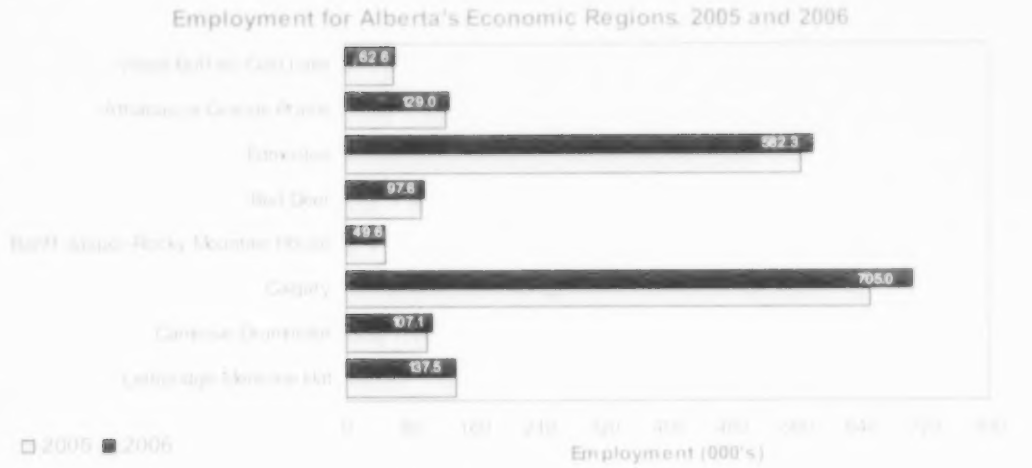
Chart 1b



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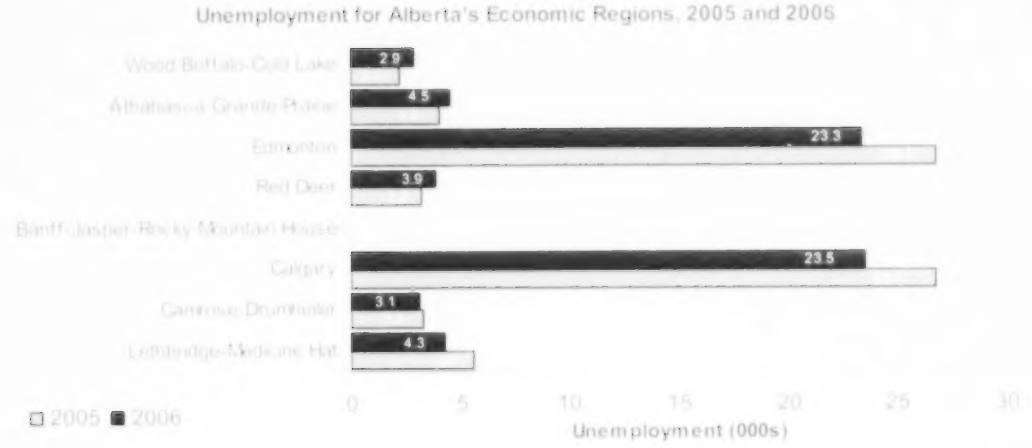

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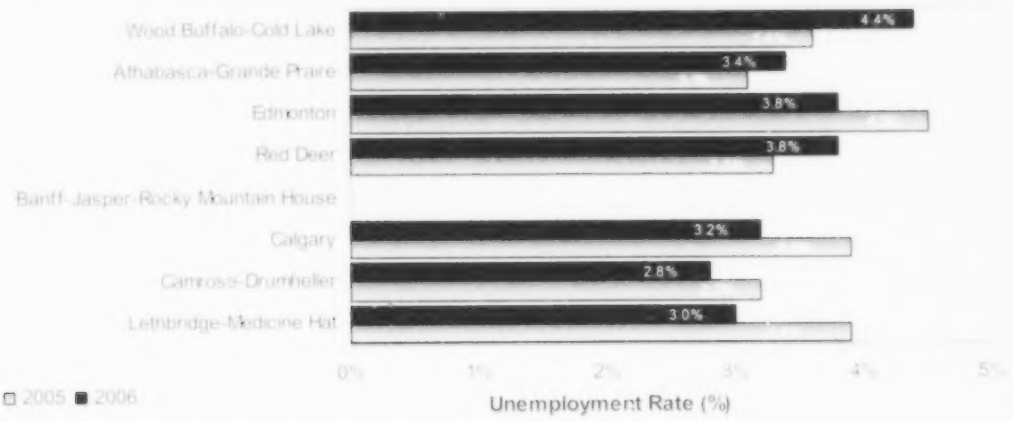
* **Note**: Statistics Canada suppresses figures less than 1,500.

The provincial unemployment rate declined to 3.4% in 2006, down 0.5 percentage points from 2005. In 2006, the regional statistics for the Banff-Jasper-RMH Region were not available, due to the Statistics Canada suppression rule.* During this period, the Camrose-Drumheller Region had the lowest unemployment rate in the province at 2.8%, while the Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake Region had the highest unemployment rate at 4.4 and experienced an increase in the unemployment rate of 0.8 percentage points. The Lethbridge-Medicine Hat Region experienced the greatest decline in its unemployment rate, decreasing 0.9 percentage points. The unemployment rates for Alberta's eight economic regions are displayed in Chart 1d.

Chart 1d

Unemployment Rates for Alberta's Economic Regions, 2005-2006



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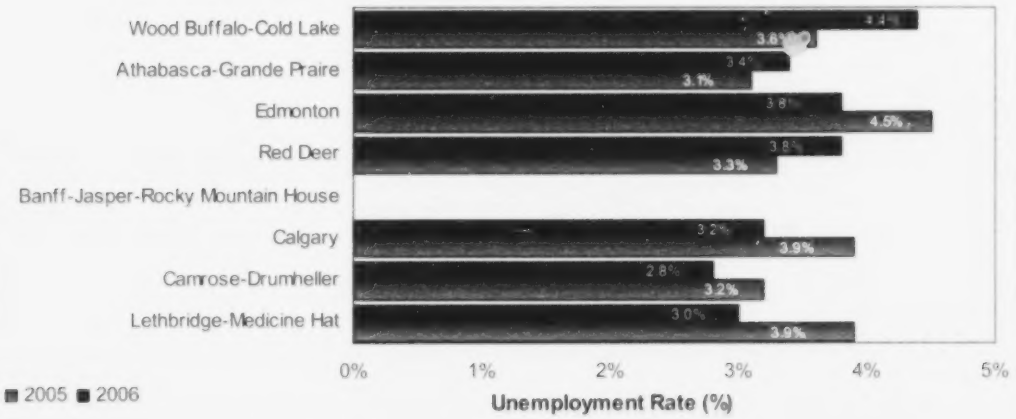

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

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II. Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake Economic Region: Employment and Unemployment

Between 2005 and 2006, the Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake Region's labour force increased by 3,900 people. During this period, the participation rate for the region was 75.2%. The number of employed people in the region grew by 3,200, an increase of 5.4%.

In 2006, oil sands projects offered continuing employment to the region. Construction to both highways 63 and 881 supplied hundreds of jobs, and provided safety for increased traffic into and out of the region.

Table 2

Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake Economic Region Labour Force Statistics			
	2005	2006	Change
Working-Age Population (000's)	83.2	87.1	4.7%
Labour Force (000's)	61.7	65.5	6.2%
Employment (000's)	59.4	62.6	5.4%
Unemployment (000's)	2.2	2.9	31.8%
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	4.4%	0.8

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

Chart 2a displays the monthly unemployment rates for the region in 2005 and 2006. Overall, the annual unemployment rate increased 0.8 percentage points to 4.4% in 2006. The unemployment rate peaked in September at 5.3%, where it then continually declined to a low of 3.8% in November.

Chart 2a

Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake Economic Region
Unemployment Rate 2005-2006
Unadjusted, 3-Month Moving Average

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	2.9%	3.0%	3.6%	4.7%	4.7%	3.8%	3.0%	3.6%
2006	3.8%	4.4%	4.3%	5.0%	4.8%	4.1%	3.6%	4.9%	5.3%	5.1%	3.8%	3.9%

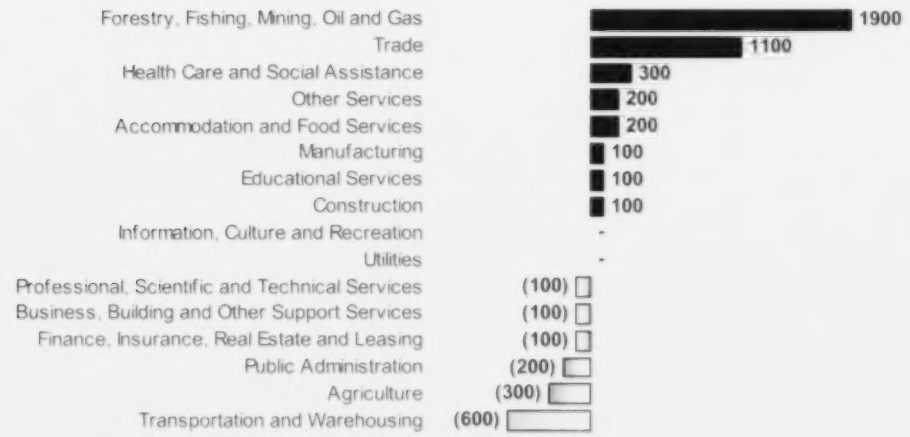
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

II. Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake Economic Region: Industries*

Chart 2b shows the change in industry employment between 2005 and 2006. Overall, employment in the Goods-Producing industries increased by 2,000, between 2005 and 2006, while employment in the Services-Producing industries increased by 1,100. The industries with the highest year-over-year increase in employment were: Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas, 1,900; Trade, 1,100; and Health Care and Social Assistance, 300. Those industries with the largest decrease in employment were: Transportation and Warehousing, 600; Agriculture, 300; and Public Administration, 200.

Chart 2b

Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake Economic Region Year-Over-Year Change in Industry Employment, 2005-2006**


Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas 1900
Trade 1100
Health Care and Social Assistance 300
Other Services 200
Accommodation and Food Services 200
Manufacturing 100
Educational Services 100
Construction 100
Information, Culture and Recreation -
Utilities -
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (100)
Business, Building and Other Support Services (100)
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing (100)
Public Administration (200)
Agriculture (300)
Transportation and Warehousing (600)

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

* **Note:** Industries Classified by North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS)
** **Note:** Statistics Canada suppresses figures less than 1,500. Industries with employment totals of 1,500 or less in either 2005 or 2006 were suppressed.

III. Athabasca-Grande Prairie: Employment and Unemployment

In 2006, the Athabasca-Grande Prairie Region's labour force increased 3.4% or 4,400 people. Employment increased by 3.1%, an addition of 3,900 people. During this period, the region's unemployment rate increased 0.3 percentage points to 3.4%. The number of unemployed people in the region increased by 500, from 4,000 to 4,500 people.

Several construction projects provided employment in the area. In addition, this year posted record figures for the development of new projects throughout the region, resulting in an increase in employment in related industries.

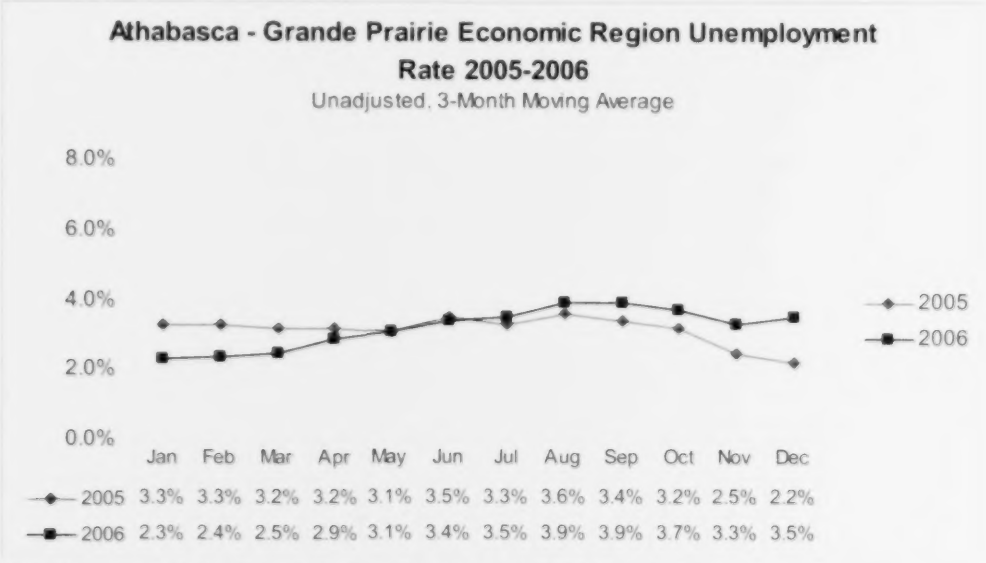
Table 3

Athabasca-Grande Prairie Economic Region Labour Force Statistics	2005	2006	Change
Working-Age Population (000's)	172.1	177.2	3.0%
Labour Force (000's)	129.1	133.5	3.4%
Employment (000's)	125.1	129.0	3.1%
Unemployment (000's)	4.0	4.5	12.5%
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.4%	0.3

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

Chart 3a shows the monthly unemployment rates for the Athabasca-Grande Prairie Region. In 2006, the unemployment rate peaked in August and September at 3.9%, where it then continually declined. Overall, the unemployment rate increased 0.3 percentage points, from 3.1% in 2005 to 3.4 % in 2006.

Chart 3a



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	3.3%	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%	3.1%	3.5%	3.3%	3.6%	3.4%	3.2%	2.5%	2.2%
2006	2.3%	2.4%	2.5%	2.9%	3.1%	3.4%	3.5%	3.9%	3.9%	3.7%	3.3%	3.5%

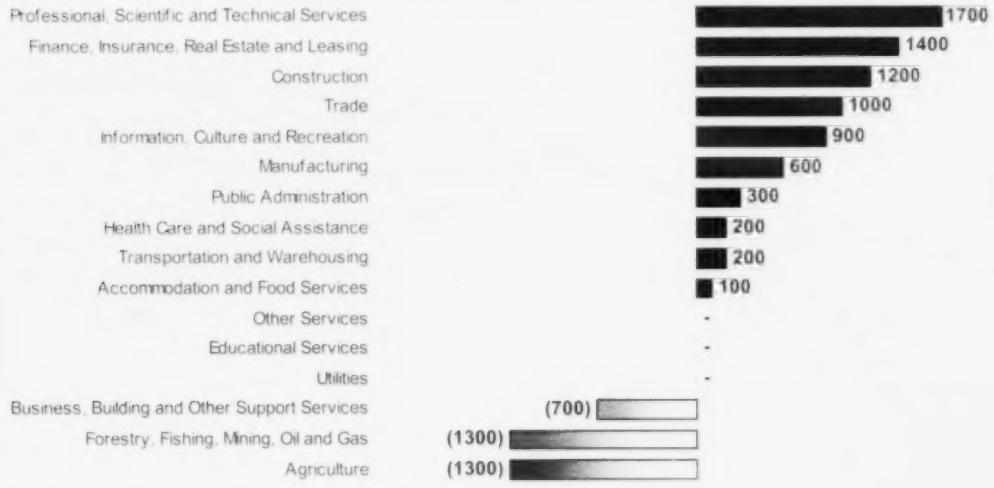
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

III. Athabasca-Grande Prairie: Industries*

Chart 3b shows the change in industry employment between 2005 and 2006. Overall, the Athabasca-Grande Prairie Region's employment in the Goods-Producing industries decreased by 1,100, while employment in the Services-Producing industries increased by 5,000. The industries with the highest year-over-year increase in employment were: Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, 1,700; Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing, 1,400; and Construction, 1,200. The industries with the highest year-over-year decrease in employment were: Agriculture, 1,300; Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas, 1,300; and Business, Building and Other Support Services, 700.

Chart 3b

Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River Economic Region Year-Over-Year Change in Industry Employment, 2005-2006**



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* **Note:** Industries Classified by North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS)
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IV. Edmonton Economic Region: Employment and Unemployment

The Edmonton Region's labour force increased by 2.0%, from 593,900 people in 2005 to 605,600 people in 2006. In 2006, the participation rate was 69.6%. During the same period, employment increased by 2.7% or 15,100. The number of unemployed people in 2006 was 23,300, a decrease of 12.7% from the previous year.

The region as a major supply centre benefited from major projects in the Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake Region. Massive construction projects, including the extension of Anthony Henday, Light Rail Transit expansion and ongoing projects at the University of Alberta, contributed to employment in the region.

Table 4

Edmonton Economic Region Labour Force Statistics	2005	2006	Change
Working-Age Population (000's)	843.7	869.6	3.1%
Labour Force (000's)	593.9	605.6	2.0%
Employment (000's)	567.2	582.3	2.7%
Unemployment (000's)	26.7	23.3	-12.7%
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	3.8%	-0.7

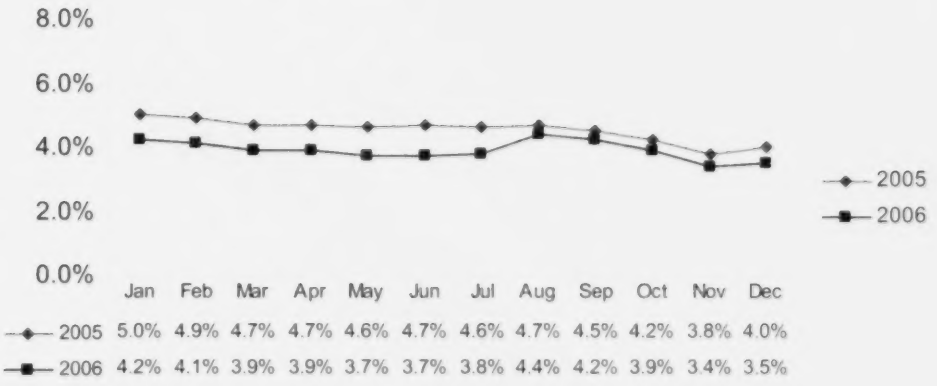
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

Chart 4a displays the unadjusted monthly unemployment rates for the Edmonton Region in 2005 and 2006. Overall, in 2006, the annual unemployment rate decreased 0.7 percentage points to 3.8%. In August 2006, the region's unemployment rate peaked at 4.4% and reached its low in November at 3.4%.

Chart 4a

Edmonton Economic Region Unemployment Rate 2005-2006

Unadjusted, 3-Month Moving Average



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	5.0%	4.9%	4.7%	4.7%	4.6%	4.7%	4.6%	4.7%	4.5%	4.2%	3.8%	4.0%
2006	4.2%	4.1%	3.9%	3.9%	3.7%	3.7%	3.8%	4.4%	4.2%	3.9%	3.4%	3.5%

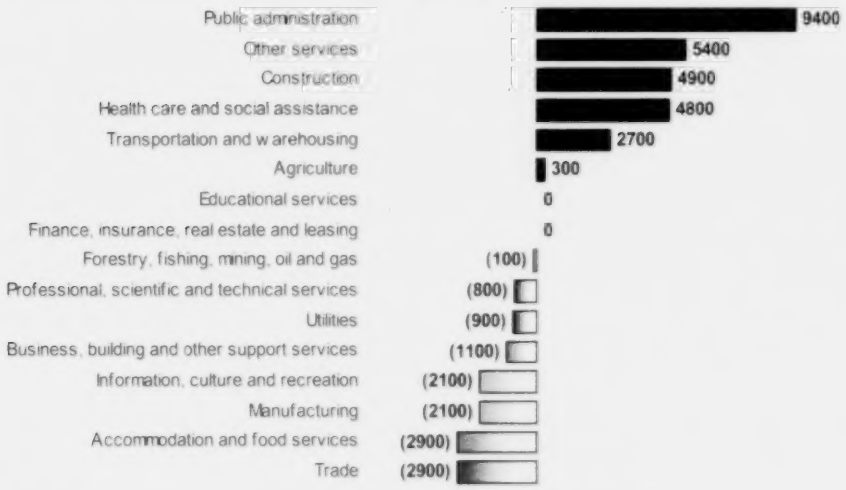
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

IV. Edmonton Economic Region: Industries*

Chart 4b shows the change in industry employment between 2005 and 2006. Overall, employment in Goods-Producing industries increased by 2,300 in 2006, while employment in the Services-Producing industries increased by 12,800. The industries with the highest year-over-year increase in employment were: Public Administration, 9,400; Other Services, 5,400; and Construction 4,900. Industries to experience the largest decrease in employment were: Trade, 2,900; Accommodation and Food Services, 2,900; and Manufacturing, 2,100.

Chart 4b

Edmonton Economic Region Year-Over-Year Change in Industry Employment, 2005-2006**



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V. Red Deer Economic Region: Employment and Unemployment

The labour force in the Red Deer Region grew to 4,700, a 4.9% increase over the previous year. The number of employed people increased by 4.3%, from 93,600 in 2005 to 97,600 in 2006. The number of unemployed people increased by 700, raising Red Deer's unemployment rate to 3.8%.

The Red Deer Region experienced the fourth largest percentage increase in employment rates in the province in 2006. There were extensive construction projects, which supplied employment for the region. Also, the reopening of the United States border to Canadian cattle provided an increase in exports to the region.

Table 5

Red Deer Economic Region Labour Force Statistics	2005	2006	Change
Working-Age Population (000's)	130.8	136.0	4.0%
Labour Force (000's)	96.8	101.5	4.9%
Employment (000's)	93.6	97.6	4.3%
Unemployment (000's)	3.2	3.9	21.9%
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.8%	0.5

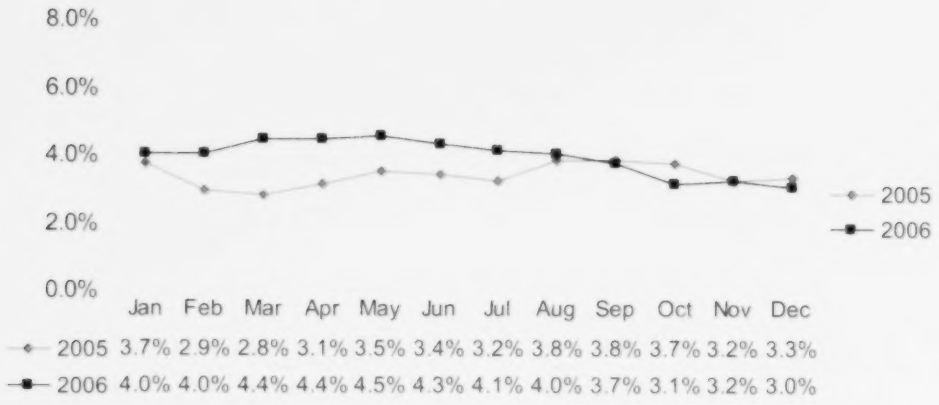
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

Chart 5a displays the region's monthly unemployment rates in 2005 and 2006. Overall, the unemployment rate increased to 3.8% in 2006. The monthly unemployment rates fluctuated throughout the year, with a high of 4.5% in May and low of 3.0% in December.

Chart 5a

Red Deer Economic Region Unemployment Rate 2005-2006

Unadjusted, 3-Month Moving Average



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	3.7%	2.9%	2.8%	3.1%	3.5%	3.4%	3.2%	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%	3.2%	3.3%
2006	4.0%	4.0%	4.4%	4.4%	4.5%	4.3%	4.1%	4.0%	3.7%	3.1%	3.2%	3.0%

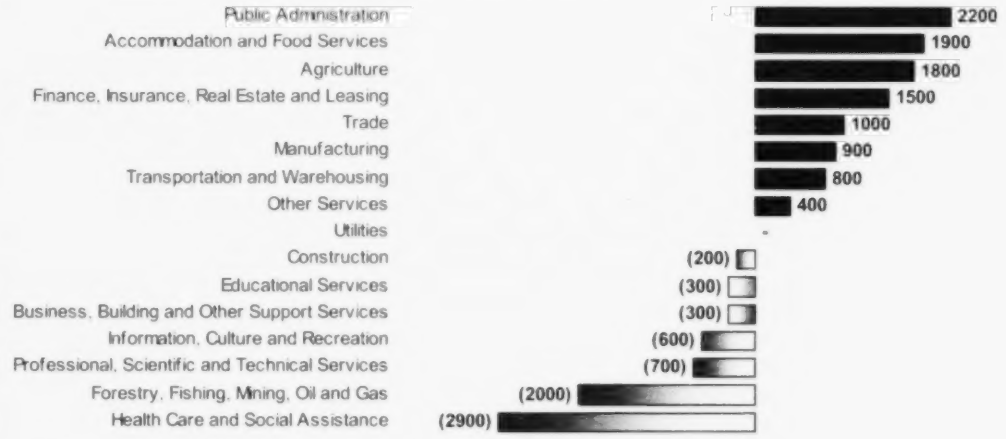
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

V. Red Deer Economic Region: Industries*

Chart 5b shows the change in industry employment between 2005 and 2006. Overall, employment in the Services-Producing industries increased by 3,100 compared to a year ago, while employment in the Goods-Producing industries increased by 900. Industries with the highest year-over-year increase in employment were: Public Administration, 2,200; Accommodation and Food Services, 1,900; and Agriculture, 1,800. Those industries with the highest year-over-year decrease in employment were: Health Care and Social Assistance, 2,900; Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas, 2,000; and Professional Scientific and Technical Services, 700.

Chart 5b

Red Deer Economic Region Year-Over-Year Change in Industry Employment, 2005-2006**



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VI. Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House Economic Region: Employment and Unemployment

The labour force in the Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House Region (RMH) increased by 1.8%, from 50,000 in 2005 to 50,900 in 2006. The participation rate for 2006 was 77.1%. As a result, employment increased by 2.1% during this period, from 48,600 in 2005 to 49,600 in 2006. The 2006 unemployment statistics were not available for the Banff-Jasper-RMH Region because of the Statistics Canada suppression rule*.

The Banff-Jasper-RMH Region experienced the highest participation and employment rates throughout the province in 2006. This was likely a result of increased tourism to the region. Construction also aided in employment as several projects in the region began.

Table 6

Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House Economic Region Labour Force Statistics	2005	2006	Change
Working-Age Population (000's)	64.6	66.0	2.2%
Labour Force (000's)	50.0	50.9	1.8%
Employment (000's)	48.6	49.6	2.1%
Unemployment (000's)	N/A*	N/A	N/A*
Unemployment Rate	N/A	N/A	N/A

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

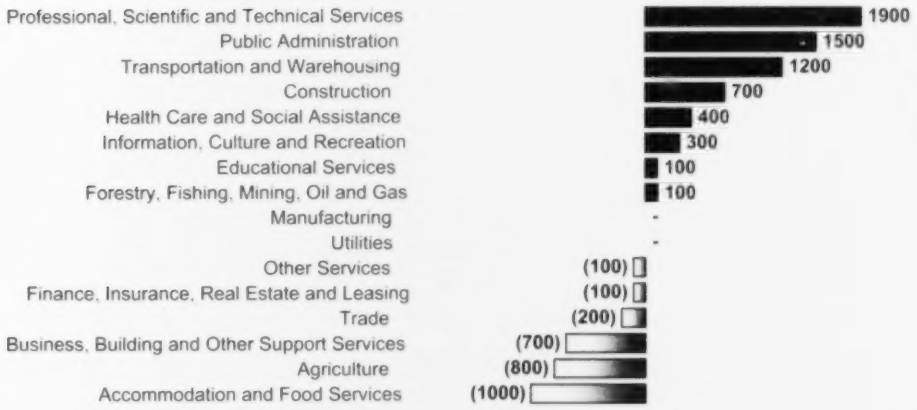
***Note:** Statistics Canada suppresses figures less than 1,500.

VI. Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House: Industries*

Chart 6b, on the following page, shows the change in industry employment between 2005 and 2006. Overall, employment in the Services-Producing industries increased by 1,000 compared to a year ago, while employment in the Goods-Producing industries decreased by 100. The industries with the highest year-over-year increase in employment were: Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, 1,900; Public Administration, 1,500; and Transportation and Warehousing, 1,200. The industries with the highest year-over-year decrease in employment were: Accommodation and Food Services, 1,000; Agriculture, 800; and Business, Building and Other Support Services, 700.

Chart 6b

Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House Economic Region Year-Over-Year Change in Industry Employment, 2005-2006**



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

*** Note:** Industries Classified by North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS)
****Note:** Statistics Canada suppresses figures less than 1,500. Industries with employment totals of 1,500 or less in either 2005 or 2006 were suppressed.

VII. Calgary Economic Region: Employment and Unemployment

The Calgary Region's labour force increased by 50,200 people between 2005-2006, a growth of 7.4%. Employment within the region also grew by 8.2%, from 651,600 to 705,000. The number of unemployed people decreased from 26,700 in 2005 to 23,500 in 2006, a decline of 12.0%.

Several real estate construction projects provided employment as well increased development of the region's core. Other major projects included Foothills Medical Centre re-development and expansions to the Calgary International Airport. In addition, the Calgary Region felt effects of massive oil sands development and an increase in tourism, due to strong growth in business and leisure travel.

Table 7

Calgary Economic Region Labour Force Statistics	2005	2006	Change
Working-Age Population (000's)	919.1	954.2	3.8%
Labour Force (000's)	678.3	728.5	7.4%
Employment (000's)	651.6	705.0	8.2%
Unemployment (000's)	26.7	23.5	-12.0%
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.2%	-0.7

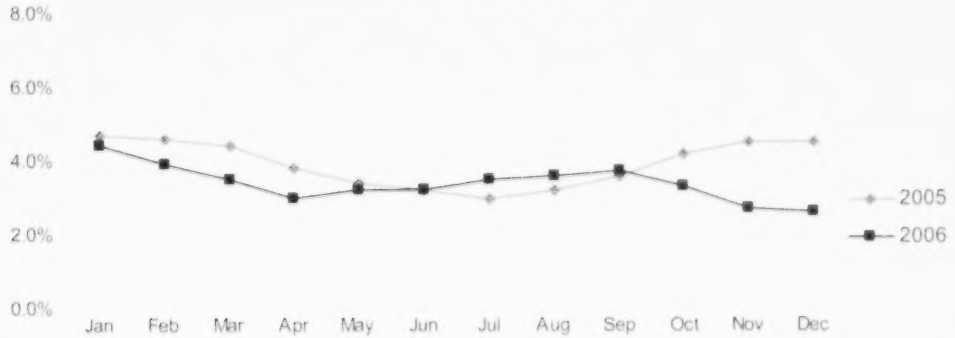
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

Chart 7a displays the monthly unemployment rates for the Calgary Economic Region between 2005 and 2006. In 2006, the unemployment rate for the region decreased 0.7 percentage points to a rate of 3.2%. The unemployment rate peaked in January at a rate of 4.4%, where it then declined and reached its low of 2.6% in December.

Chart 7a

Calgary Economic Region Unemployment Rate 2005-2006

Unadjusted, 3-Month Moving Average



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	4.7%	4.6%	4.4%	3.8%	3.4%	3.2%	3.0%	3.2%	3.6%	4.2%	4.5%	4.5%
2006	4.4%	3.9%	3.5%	3.0%	3.2%	3.2%	3.5%	3.6%	3.7%	3.3%	2.7%	2.6%

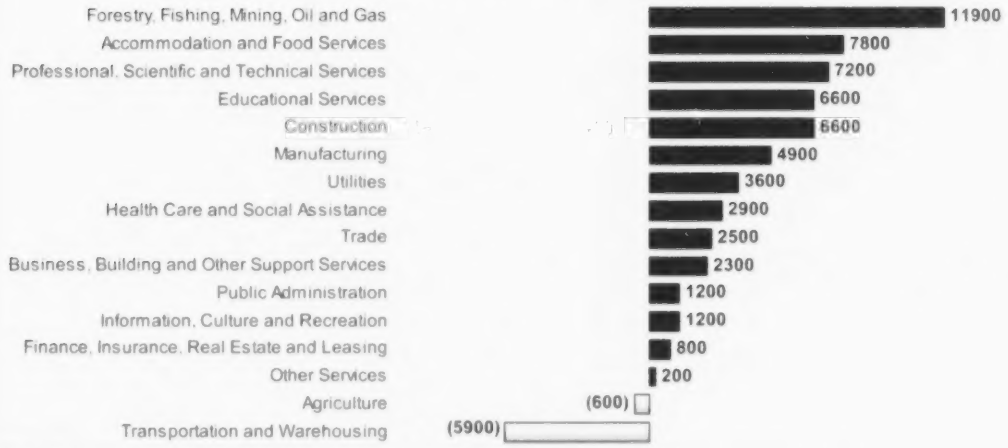
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

VII. Calgary Economic Region: Industries*

Chart 7b shows the change in industry employment between 2005 and 2006. Overall, employment in the Services-Producing industries increased by 26,900 compared to a year ago, and employment in the Goods-Producing industries increased by 26,500. The industries with the highest year-over-year increase in employment were: Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas, 11,900; Accommodation and Food Services, 7,800; and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, 7,200. The industries with the highest year-over-year decrease in employment were: Transportation and Warehousing, 5,900; and Agriculture, 600.

Chart 7b

Calgary Economic Region Year-Over-Year Change in Industry Employment, 2005-2006**



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

*** Note:** Industries Classified by North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS)
****Note:** Statistics Canada suppresses figures less than 1,500. Industries with employment totals of 1,500 or less in either 2005 or 2006 were suppressed.

VIII. Camrose-Drumheller Economic Region: Employment and Unemployment

The labour force in the Camrose-Drumheller Region increased by 5.4% between 2005-2006. During the same period, employment rose 5.7%, from 101,300 to 107,100. The unemployment rate declined 0.4 percentage points, as the number of unemployed people decreased from 3,300 to 3,100.

A boom in the construction industry in the Camrose-Drumheller Region assisted in increasing employment in the region. Several projects such as the new multiplex, stores, and hotels all provided employment for the area. In addition, several oil projects contributed to employment for the region.

Table 8

Camrose-Drumheller Economic Region Labour Force Statistics	2005	2006	Change
Working-Age Population (000's)	147.3	150.8	2.4%
Labour Force (000's)	104.6	110.2	5.4%
Employment (000's)	101.3	107.1	5.7%
Unemployment (000's)	3.3	3.1	-6.1%
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	2.8%	-0.4

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

Chart 8a graphs the monthly unemployment rates for the Camrose-Drumheller Economic Region. In 2006, the unemployment rate reached its low in January, February and March at 2.4% and peaked in October at 3.4%. Overall, the annual unemployment rate decreased 0.4 percentage points, from a rate of 3.2% in 2005 to a rate of 2.8% in 2006.

Chart 8a

Camrose-Drumheller Economic Region Unemployment Rate 2005-2006

Unadjusted, 3-Month Moving Average

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	3.9%	3.6%	3.1%	3.4%	3.7%	3.6%	2.9%	2.7%	3.2%	3.1%	2.8%	2.6%
2006	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	3.1%	3.1%	2.8%	2.3%	3.0%	3.1%	3.4%	2.8%	2.9%

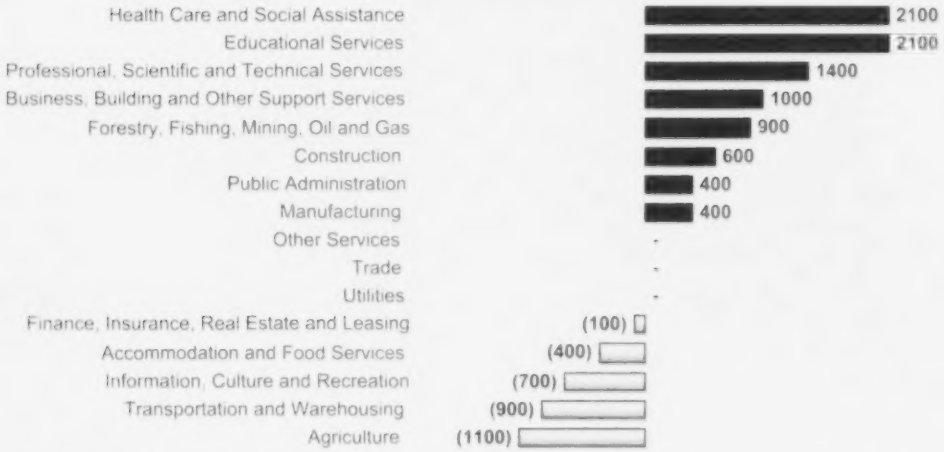
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

VIII: Camrose-Drumheller Economic Region: Industries*

Chart 8b shows the change in industry employment between 2005 and 2006. Overall, employment in the Services-Producing industries increased by 4,600 compared to a year ago, while employment in the Goods-Producing industries increased by 1,200 during this same period. Industries with the highest year-over-year increase in employment were: Health Care and Social Assistance, 2,100; Educational Services, 2,100; and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, 1,400. Industries with the highest year-over-year decrease in employment were: Agriculture, 1,100; Transportation and Warehousing, 900; and Information, Culture and Recreation, 700.

Chart 8b

Camrose-Drumheller Economic Region Year-Over-Year Change in Industry Employment, 2005-2006**


Health Care and Social Assistance 2100
Educational Services 2100
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services 1400
Business, Building and Other Support Services 1000
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas 900
Construction 600
Public Administration 400
Manufacturing 400
Other Services -
Trade -
Utilities -
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing (100)
Accommodation and Food Services (400)
Information, Culture and Recreation (700)
Transportation and Warehousing (900)
Agriculture (1100)

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

* **Note:** Industries Classified by North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS)
****Note:** Statistics Canada suppresses figures less than 1,500. Industries with employment totals of 1,500 or less in either 2005 or 2006 were suppressed.

IX. Lethbridge-Medicine Hat Economic Region: Employment and Unemployment

Between 2005 and 2006, the Lethbridge-Medicine Hat Region's labour force decreased by 0.9%, to 141,800 people. During the same period, employment remained the same at 137,500. In 2006, the employment rate for the region was 68.6%. The number of unemployed people in the region declined to 4,300, a decrease of 23.2%.

The re-opening of the United States border to Canadian cattle contributed to the decreasing unemployment rate in the region. There were several major utilities projects that also provided employment. The University of Lethbridge began work on its $11 million Turcotte Hall Addition and $27 million Water and Environmental Science Building. Employment in the Trade industry will also grow as several new stores will open in the region.

Table 9

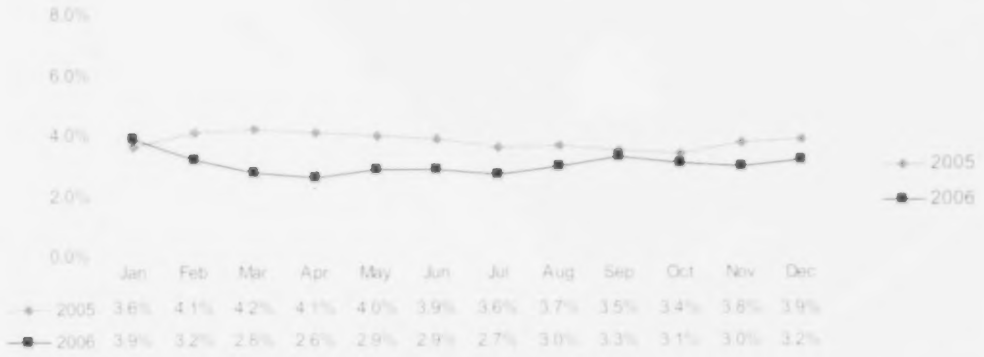
Lethbridge-Medicine Hat Economic Region Labour Force Statistics	2005	2006	Change
Working-Age Population (000's)	194.9	200.4	2.8%
Labour Force (000's)	143.1	141.8	-0.9%
Employment (000's)	137.5	137.5	0.0%
Unemployment (000's)	5.6	4.3	-23.2%
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.0%	-0.9

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

Chart 9a displays the monthly unemployment rates for the region in 2005 and 2006. In January, the unemployment rate reached its highest rate at 3.9%. After this peak, the unemployment rate decreased reaching a low of 2.6% in April.

Chart 9a

Lethbridge-Medicine Hat Economic Region Unemployment Rate
2005-2006
Unadjusted, 3-Month Moving Average



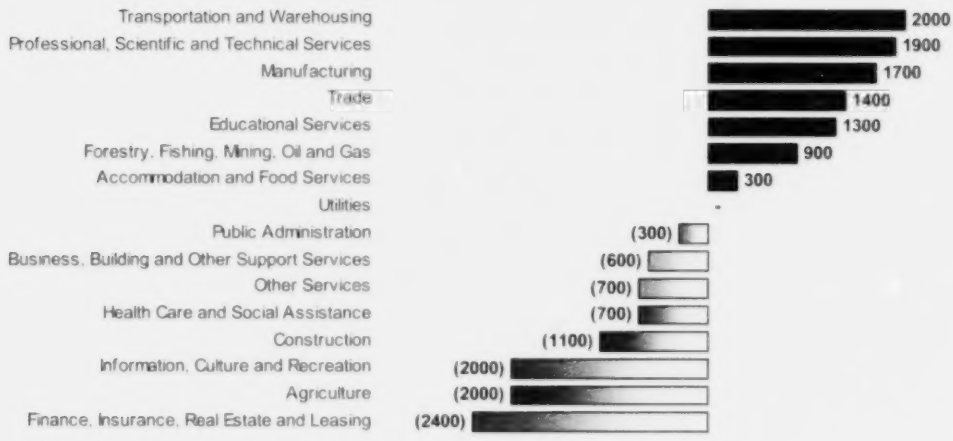
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

IX. Lethbridge-Medicine Hat Economic Region: Industries*

Chart 9b shows the change in industry employment between 2005 and 2006. Overall, employment in the Services-Producing and Goods-Producing industries remained constant. Industries with the highest year-over-year increase in employment were: Transportation and Warehousing, 2,000; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, 1,900; and Manufacturing, 1,700. Those industries with the highest year-over-year decrease in employment were: Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas, 2,400; Agriculture, 2,000; and Information, Culture and Recreation, 2,000.

Chart 9b

Lethbridge - Medicine Hat Economic Region Year-Over-Year Change in Industry Employment, 2005-2006**



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2006 Historical)

*** Note:** Industries Classified by North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS)
****Note:** Statistics Canada suppresses figures less than 1,500. Industries with employment totals of 1,500 or less in either 2005 or 2006 were suppressed.

X. Glossary

Employed People: People who, during the week (Sunday to Saturday):

(a) did any work at all for pay or in self-employment or without pay in a family farm, business or professional practice;
(b) were absent from their job or business, with or without pay, for the entire week because of vacation, an illness, a labour dispute at their place of work, or any other reasons.

Employment Rate: Refers to the number of people employed in the week (Sunday to Saturday), expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years of age and over.

Goods-Producing Industries: The following industries are included within this category: Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil, and Gas; Manufacturing; Agriculture; Construction; and Utilities.

Labour Force: Refers to people who were either employed or unemployed during the week (Sunday to Saturday).

Participation Rate: Refers to the labour force in the week (Sunday to Saturday), expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over.

Services-Producing Industries: The following industries are included within this category: Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, and Leasing; Transportation and Warehousing; Accommodation and Food Services; Other Services; Information, Culture, and Recreation; Business, Building, and Other Support Services; Public Administration; Health Care and Social Assistance; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Trades (retail and wholesale); and Educational Services.

Working-Age Population: People 15 years of age and over except people living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Unemployed People: People who, during the week (Sunday to Saturday), were without paid work or without self-employment work and were available for work and either:

(a) had actively looked for paid work in the past four weeks; or
(b) were on temporary lay-off and expected to return to their job; or
(c) had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less.

Unemployment Rate- Refers to the unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the week (Sunday to Saturday).

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